(vi) Exemption of service tax for services received by exporters from goods and transport agents and commission agents where the liability to pay service tax is *ab initio* on the exporter. Thus there would be no need for the exporter to first pay the tax and later claim refund.

Extension of Mobile Banking Services

1052. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of Government in the extension of Mobile Banking Services;

(b) whether the move will be encouraged or discouraged; and

(c) what is the feedback received in case of Mobile Banking Services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) In view of the rapid growth of users of mobile phones and wider coverage of mobile phone network, guidelines for mobile banking transaction were issued by RBI to encourage implementing financial inclusion and mobile phone based payment transactions in India. Only Banks which are licensed and supervised in India and have a physical presence are permitted to offer mobile banking services. Because of its encouraging response, Banks have been exploring the feasibility of using mobile phones as an alternative channel of delivery of banking services. RBI has observed an increase in usage of mobile phones for banking transactions.

Service Tax

1053. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Service Tax at 10 per cent on various services is on the higher side; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to further reduce the Service Tax on various services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. The service tax rate on all services has been reduced from 12% to 10% on 24.02.2009.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Money laundering

1054. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that not even a single individual has been apprehended/ interrogated by Government during last three years in relation to money laundering and parking of illicit-funds abroad;